The Book Tree
by Paul Czajak; illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh

After the mayor declares books dangerous and rips up every book in town, a young boy named Arlo discovers how to grow them.

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Read Across America this month:
The Book Tree explores the importance of the written word and what happens to a community when books are banished. Get students thinking and talking about all the places reading happens and why words are important in your community. Design a walking field trip together to explore and Read Across your neighborhood! Ask a local restaurant, theater, library, health center, and others to host your students, discuss why words (in all different languages) matter, and read aloud. If distances are too great, recreate your neighborhood with stations set up by local businesses or organizations throughout your school or school grounds. Conclude your Read Across adventure with:

• the dedication of a neighborhood tree as your community’s Book Tree
• a reading of The Book Tree under your Book Tree
• decorating the tree with colorful hanging tags featuring titles and authors of readers’ favorite books

MARCH 2020
Plan ahead for more Read Across America reading fun:

Work up an appetite for reading! A Book Tasting is a great way to introduce students to a wide variety of books, authors, and illustrators. Work with your school librarian and/or cafeteria staff to transform a space with tables and chairs into a cozy café for readers. Flowers, tablecloths, and silver trays are optional, but add to the fun of students sitting down to browse a variety of books at each place setting and then creating a menu of titles that they want to read in the coming weeks and months. You can help students identify titles of interest with genre or themed tables or place settings and have students rotate throughout the tasting. Consider inviting special guests from your school or community to talk up a book or books as the “Specials for Read Across America Day.”

March is:
- National Reading Month
- National Women’s History Month
- Music in Our Schools Month

Find more titles and resources to grow a love of reading at readacrossamerica.org